

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 L-03 AGR-20 SS-15 RSR-01

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P 271747Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8660

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6166

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN COLOMBIA -- JULY 73

1. THE COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE OFFICE AT THE EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN BOGOTA WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF JULY. THE OFFICE WILL CONSIST OF MEMBERS OF COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS THE ASST ATTORNEY GEN FOR JUDICIAL POLICE, THE NATIONAL POLICE (NP), AND DAS. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS OFFICE IS TO COORDINATE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOUR AGENCIES AS IT CONCERNS IMMIGRATION, CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF COLOMBIAN LAWS. THE CREATION OF THIS OFFICE CAME ABOUT DUE TO THE INCREASED NEED FOR COORDINATION IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS AND SUCH CREATION HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN A SUBJECT OF COMMENT BY THE US MISSION TO COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES.

2. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE MIN OF JUSTICE, DR JAIME CASTRO, HAS FORMED WITHIN THE MIN AN OFFICE TO HANDLE NARCOTICS AFFAIRS. THIS IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE NARCOTICS COMMITTEE MENTIONED IN LAST MONTHS REPORT WHICH CONSISTS OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OF OTHER GOVT AGENCIES. IT IS PLANNED THAT THIS NARCOTICS OFFICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING THE ADDITIONAL ADMIN MATTERS OF THE MIN OF JUSTICE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD AND THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS
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COMMITTEE WHICH THE MIN CHAIRS.

3. DURING THE PERIOD MARCH THROUGH JUNE 73 THE NP EXPENDED APPROX 1.5 MILLION COLOMBIAN PESOS (APPROX US \$65,217) FOR INCIDENTAL

EXPENSES IN THE INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS. THESE FUNDS WERE UTILIZED BY THE NARCOTICS UNIT OF THE NP AND WERE THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF A TOTAL SUM OF FOUR (4) MILLION PESOS (APPROX US\$173,913) AUTHORIZED THE NP BY THE MIN OF JUSTICE FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION FOR CY73.

4. TWO U S CUSTOMS OFFICIALS VISITED BOGOTA DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD IN REF TO AN IN COUNTRY TWO WEEK CUSTOMS COURSE FOR COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS AND NP. APPROX 35 MEMBERS OF THE COLOMBIN CUSTOMS AND 10 MEMBERS OF THE NP WILL ATTEND THE COURSE. IT WAS DECIDED, DUE TO THE NUMER OF STUDENTS, THAT TWO COURSES WOULD BE GIVEN. THE FIRST WILL BEGIN AUG 20/73 AND THE SECOND SEPT 3/73.

5. THE MISSION RECEIVED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SIX WEEK DEA NARCOTICS COURSE TO COMMENCE IN THE U S ON SEPT 4/73 (DEA 4632). COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS THE ASST ATTORNEY GEN FOR JUDICIAL POLICE, THE NP AND DAS HAVE ALL RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY AS CONCERNS SENDING PARTICIPANTS TO THIS COURSE (QUOTA FOR COLOMBIA - 6 PARTICIPANTS). GOC FUNDING OF THE PARTICIPANTS MAY POSE SOME DIFFICULTY (BOGOTA 6073).

6. THERE FOLS SUMMARIES ON A REP SAMPLE OF NARCOTICS CASES IN COLOMBIA DURING JULY AND THOSE NOT REPORTED EARLIER.

(A) ON INFO PROVIDED BY BOGOTA DEA, F-2 NARCOTICS UNIT, NP, SEIZED A CLANDESTINE COCAINE LAB IN BOGOTA ON JUNE 26. POLICE ARRESTED ONE SUBJ AND SEIZED 25 LBS OF MACERATED COCA LEAVES, CHEMICAL PRECURSORS AND LAB EQUIPMENT.

(B) ON JULY 3 IN LETICIA, META INTENDENCIA, AS A RESULT OF THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS, NP, AND DAS, ONE COLOMBIAN WAS ARRESTED WITH NINE POUNDS OF COCAINE.

(C) ON JULY 5, DAS IN COOPERATION WITH DEA AGENTS SEIZED A COCAINE LAB AT THE TOWN OF LA VEGA AND ARESTED ONE MAJOR COL TRAFFICKER. THE LAB HAD THE CAPACITY OF PRODUCING FROM 30 TO 40 KILOS OF COCAINE AT A TIME. DAS AGENTS SEIZED LAB EQUIP-
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MENT AND CHEMICAL PRECURSORS.

(D) ON JULY 6 IN A UNILATERAL ACTION, F2 NARCOTICS UNITS SEIZED 22 KILOS OF COCAINE AT EL DORADO AIRPORT, BOGOTA AND ARRESTED FIVE SUSPECTS.

(E) ON JULY 6 F2 NP NARCOTICS UNIT SEIZED ONE KILO OF COCAINE AND ARRESTED ONE SUBJ AS A RESULT OF INFO PROVIDED BY BOGOTA DEA.

(F) DURING JULY IN 16 SEPARATE ACTIONS, IN SEVEN DIFFERENT DEPTS, THE NATIONAL POLICE SEIZED A TOTAL OF 1,602 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA AND DESTROYED A TOTAL OF 5,622 MARIJUANA PLANTS. TWENTY (20) ARRESTS WERE MADE.

7. THERE FOLLS SUMMARIES ON ARRESTS OF COLOMBIANS ABROAD WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OFFICIAL TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC. THIS IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED A COMPLETE LIST HOWEVER.

(A) ON JULY 10 DEA AGENTS WITH US CUSTOMS AGENTS ARRESTED TWO COLOMBIAN NATIONALS ABOARD M/V MONTEGO AT DOCKSIDE IN MIAMI RIVER.

APPROX 4,650 GRAMS OF COCAINE WERE SEIZED.

(B) ON JULY 11 A COLOMBIAN WAS ARRESTED AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN HAMBURG, GER. THE SUBJ WAS ACTING AS DELIVERY MAN DURING A SALE OF ONE KILO COCAINE. THE COCAINE WAS SEIZED WHEN COLOMBIAN AND TWO FRG NATONALS WERE ARRESTED.

(C) ON JULY 15 PANAMANIAN POLICE ARRESTED TWO COLOMBIAN NATIONALS. THEY

ALLEGEDLY FLEW FROM BARRANQUILLA TO PANAMA TO AWAIT ARRIVAL OF A QUANTITY OF COCAINE SECRETED ABOARD M/V LA ESPERANZA OF COLOMBIAN REG.

8. BELOW ARE SUMMARIES OF SUBSTANTIVE PRESS ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PRESS DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.

(A) ON JULY 1 AN ARTICLE BY GAMME FOUR PRESS APPEARED IN EL TIEMPO ON "THE NEW CLASS OF TOURISTS THAT ARE COMING TO COLOMBIA." THE REPORT TRACED THE ACTIVITIES OF SEVERAL YOUNG AMERICAN HIPPIES AND THEIR SEARCH FOR DRUGS IN COLOMBIA.
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(B) ON JULY 3 EL SIGLO IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY CONGRATULATED U S AUTHORITIES FOR THE "RIGOROUS APPLICATION OF JUSTICE" TO TWO COLOMBIANS IN SAN ANTONIO TEX. THE TWO WERE CAPTURED WITH 2.2 KILOS OF COCAINE ACCORDING TO EL SIGLO.

(C) ON JULY 5 AN ARTICLE BY ALVARO LOPEZ PARDO APPEARED IN THE EDITORIAL PAGE OF EL TIEMPO. THE ARTICLE DENOUNCED THE ALARMING INCREASE IN THE USE OF DRUGS IN LA. THE FOL DAY AN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY APPEARED IN EL TIEMPO CALLING ON GOVT AUTHORITIES TO TAKE STRONGER JUDICIAL MEASURES TO COMBAT THE GROWING PROBLEM.

(D) ON JULY 6 BOGOTA DAILY EL SIGLO REPORTED THE CAPTURE BY F2 AGENTS OF JAIME CAICEDO-CAICEDO, ALIAS EL GRILLO, IN TUMACO FOR POSSESSION OF TWO POUNDS OF COCAINE.

(E) ON JULY 6 BOGOTA DAILY, EL ESPECTADOR, REPORTED THAT A COMBINED OP OF CUSTOMS, NP, AND DAS ON JULY 2 RESULTED IN THE ARREST IN LETICIA OF JULIO ENRIQUE RAMIREZ FERNANDEZ OF MEDELLIN FOR POSSESSION OF NINE POUNDS OF COCAINE. THE PAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT THE SUSPECT TRIED TO BRIBE TWO CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND ONE F2 OFFICIAL OFFERING THEM \$60,000 PESOS. THE COCAINE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE MANAGER OF THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC.

(F) ON JULY 12 EL TIEMPO CARRIED A UPI STORY FROM WASHINGTON CONCERNING THE ARREST OF EDGAR RIASCO QUINONES FOR TRYING TO INTRODUCE TEN POUNDS OF COCAINE HIDDEN IN THE SOLES OF TEN PAIRS OF SHOES INTO THE U S. QUINONES WAS EMPLOYED AS A SAILOR ON THE MONTEGO WHICH HAD SAILED FROM THE COLOMBIAN PORT OF TURBO.

(G) EL ESPECTADOR REPORTED ON JULY 13 THAT OFFICIALS OF THE NP HAD DESTROYED THE 44 POUNDS OF COCAINE SEIZED ALONG WITH THREE CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES IN BOGOTAS ELDORADO AIRPORT. THE DRUGS WERE DESTROYED AT THE GEN SANTANDER POLICE SCHOOL IN THE PRESENCE OF JUDGE PABLO EMILIO RAMIREZ AND A DEL OF THE ATTORNEY GEN'S OFFICE AS WELL AS OFFICIALS OF THE SCHOOL AND JOURNALISTS.

(H) ON JULY 14 EL TIEMPO'S CORRESPONDENT IN SANTA MARTA REPORTED THAT MEMBERS OF DAS LED BY THE ACTING CHIEF, JAIME LARGO SOSA, HAD DISCOVERED FOUR HECTARES OF MARIJUANA ON A FARM CALLED "EL JORDAN" NEAR THE SIERRA NEVADA OF SANTA MARTA. ACCORDING TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORT THE MARIJUANA WAS BURNED BY DAS AGENTS. AMERICAN HIPPIES APPARENTLY WERE INVOLVED IN THE CULTIVATION BUT WERE NOT APPREHENDED.

(I) ON JULY 17 LA REPUBLICA REPORTED THAT EXPORTS OF WOOD FROM THE PORT OF TUMACO TO THE U S HAD BEEN SUSPENDED BY COL-VAPORES, A COLOMBIAN SHIPPING LINE BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY COLVAPORES WHEN QUANTITIES OF COCAINE WERE FOUND ON SOME OF THE BOATS PROCEEDING FROM TUMACO.

(J) EL ESPECTADOR OF JULY 17 REPORTED THAT JUDGE HILDA CORTES HAD RELEASED CAMILO RIVERA, ELSA GONZALEZ DE RIVERA AND EVARDO SANTOS. THE THREE WERE CAPTURED IN LA MESA, CUNDINAMARCA ON CHARGES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE LAWYER FOR THE THREE SUSPECTS WAS ALBERTO GUARNIZO VASQUEZ, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SAVINGS FUND.

(K) AN ELTIEMPO ARTICLE ON JULY 17 DATELINE VILLAVICENCIO BY ARNOLDO FALLO MANRIQUE, REPORTS COLOMBIAN SANATOR CIRO NUTORIOS AS BEING CHARGED THAT AGENTS OF THE COA HAVE TRICKED COLOMBIAN FARMERS INTO PLANTING MARIJUANA AND LATER HAVE PROCEEDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH COLOMBIAN POLICE TO HAVE THEM ARRESTED.

9. EMB WILL COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN STATE 142821 IN ITS AUG REPORT. WE RECEIVED THE FIRST TWO ISSUES OF THE ARA MONTHLY NARCOTICS REPORT BUT NONE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE DEPT TO AGAIN CIRCULATE COPIES TO ALL ARA POSTS. WHITE

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